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SAC, Philadelphia (137-4287)

May 17, 1967

Director, FBI

92-6054-

PH 872-PC  
TECIP

Reurairtel 5/12/67.

Authority granted to include captioned target in your TECIP. Keep Bureau currently advised concerning developments in this matter.

Authority also granted to utilize services of this source to identify members of La Cosa Nostra. When utilizing this source in this regard, you should contact member-informants in La Cosa Nostra of your office in an effect to determine the authenticity and accuracy of PH 872-PC's information.

1 - 92-6054

1 - Mr. Emory

DUPLICATE YELLOW

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REGISTERED MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (137-4887) (P)  
SUBJECT: SAMUEL STEVEN LA TORRE, aka  
PH 872-PC  
(OO: PHILADELPHIA)

Since 4/20/67, SA WAYNE D. SMITH of the Wilkes-Barre RA has been contacting SAMUEL STEVEN LA TORRE (PH 872-PC), subject of Philadelphia File 137-4887.

LA TORRE, born 7/30/18, FBI No. 2-200-710, resides at 909 Wyoming Avenue, West Pittston, Pa. LA TORRE, who is married and has a family, resides with his family in the same home as his parents at instant address. He is the son of STEVEN JOSEPH LA TORRE, Philadelphia File 92-1717, Bureau File 92-8595, and has always resided with his parents.

PH 872-PC is an admitted gambler and has been arrested in the past for his gambling activities. In 1954 he was convicted for passing counterfeit money and was sent to the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., for a period of four years. Subject was involved in the counterfeit charge with CHARLES JOSEPH PARISI, Philadelphia File 92-1909, who is alleged to be an LCN member.

4 - Bureau (RM)  
3 - 137- (SAMUEL STEVEN LA TORRE)  
1 - 92-6054 (LCN)  
3 - Philadelphia  
2 - 137-4887  
1 - 92-1027

WDS:LMW  
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PH 137-4887

PH 872-PC has completed three years of college and served time in the U. S. Navy during World War II.

STEVEN JOSEPH LA TORRE, born 3/11/86, Montedoro, Sicily, immigrated to the United States in 1903, and has always resided in the Pittston, Pa., area.

After arriving in the United States, LA TORRE sent money to SANTO VOLPE, SR., (Deceased) Philadelphia File 92-752, Bureau File 92-8318, to pay for VOLPE's passage to the United States. VOLPE came to the United States and became the leader of the Mafia in the Pittston, Pa., area.

LA TORRE, who has admitted membership in the Mafia to PH 872-PC, was a close associate of VOLPE in a coal contracting business for several years. LA TORRE was also a business associate of CHARLES C. BUFALINO (Deceased), Philadelphia File 92-1590, Bureau File 92-8630, who also held a leadership role in the Organization. Both VOLPE and BUFALINO were friends of LA TORRE in Montedoro, Sicily.

It is to be noted that CHARLES C. BUFALINO is the uncle of RUSSELL A. BUFALINO, Philadelphia File 92-441, Bureau File 92-2839, who attended the meeting of hoodlums at Apalachin, N. Y., in November, 1957, and is the current leader of the LCN in the upstate Pennsylvania area.

LA TORRE was an influential figure in the Organization from the time he came to Pittston, Pa., and up to approximately 1945. Sometime around 1945 ill feeling developed between LA TORRE and the Organization, and as a result he was looked upon with disfavor and not recognized by the leaders, including deceased JOHN SCIANDRA, father of ANGELO SCIANDRA, who also attended the Apalachin meeting.

PH 872-PC has stated it is amazing that his father was never killed by the Organization, but feels he has been allowed to live because he has always been respected and feared.

PH 872-PC has advised that in addition to admitting membership in the Mafia, his father, STEVEN JOSEPH LA TORRE,

PH 137-4887

has confided in him and identified other members of the Organization. LA TORRE has also related to PH 872-PC past activities of the Organization, which has included information concerning the Organization's involvement in past murders.

PH 872-PC claims he is the favorite son of STEVEN JOSEPH LA TORRE. He has stated that his father has enlightened him on the Organization's membership and activities for his own personal protection. PH 872-PC has to date denied LCN membership; however, the contacting Agent is not completely convinced that PH 872-PC is a non-member.

PH 872-PC has stated that his father has never refused to answer questions concerning the Organization, and he, PH 872-PC, is willing to present him with any question that he cannot answer.

The first few contacts with PH 872-PC were related to information he furnished in connection with a matter entitled, "SAMUEL RUGGERE, ETAL; TFIS," Philadelphia File 15-16878, Bureau File 15-57882, in which Philadelphia is the office of origin. PH 872-PC furnished reliable and valuable information in this matter, and was responsible for the recovery of stolen property valued at approximately \$44,000.

On 5/8-9/67, PH 872-PC identified 38 individuals as members of the Organization or the Mafia. He has stated these identities are based upon information he has received from his father.

It is to be noted that 30 of these individuals have been previously identified as LCN members. PH 872-PC has also identified JOSEPH LUCO PAGANO and PASQUALE PAGANO as members of the Organization. It is to be noted that both of these individuals are subjects of LCN Index Cards of the New York Office.

Based upon the information set forth above, the Philadelphia Office believes that PH 872-PC is in a position to positively identify LCN members. It is realized



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that PH 872-PC does not fully meet the criteria set up by the Bureau; is, a member can be only identified through a highly confidential source or an admitted member. Philadelphia feels, however, that PH 872-PC is an exception to the rule, and Bureau authority is requested to consider PH 872-PC an authority in identifying LCN members.

Captioned informant is described as follows:

Name	SAMUEL STEVEN LA TORRE
Address	909 Wyoming Avenue, West Pittston, Pa.
Born	7/30/18, Pittston, Pa.
Father	STEVEN JOSEPH LA TORRE
Marital Status	Married
Wife	LINDA
Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Height	5'5"
Weight	155
Hair	Black (graying)
Eyes	Brown
Build	Medium
FBI No.	2200710

Additional background and descriptive data will be forwarded as it becomes available.